

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/RA:AJNAVEZ:PCS

APPROVED BY AF:RSSMITH

AF/C:MR. COHEN

OASD/ISA:MR. BADER

PM/SAS:MR. SMITH

DSAA:MR. HOENIG

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R 140240Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224506

E.O. 11652:GDS

AGS: MASS,MA

SUBJECT: ANDRIAMAHAZO INTEREST IN ACQUIRING US MILITARY
EQUIPMENT

1. IN NOVEMBER 12 MEETING WITH STATE AND DOD REPS,
GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR RAHARIJAONA
EXPLAINED GOMR INTEREST IN FINDING NEW SOURCE FOR MILITARY
EQUIPMENT. STRESSING CONFIDENTIAL AND EXPLORATORY NATURE
HIS INQUIRIES, HE SAID THAT GOMR WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN
ITS INDEPENDENCE, WHICH HE EXPLAINED BECAME REAL ONLY AFTER
RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH WERE CONCLUDED. AS RESULT
OF FRENCH WITHDRAWAL, FRANCE WOULD NO LONGER PROVIDE MILI-
TARY EQUIPMENT AND IN FACT HAD REMOVED NECESSARY SPARES FOR
CERTAIN ITEMS.

2. ANDRIAMAHAZO SAID GOMR WAS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING
FOLLOWING TYPES OF ITEMS FROM US, WITHOUT INDICATION OF
QUANTITIES, ESPECIALLY IF THEY COULD BE FURNISHED AS
SURPLUS:

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(A) SPARES FOR DC-3'S, WHICH HE AID WERE USED FOR CIVILIAN MEDEVAC PURPOSES AS WELL AS MILITARY.

(B) LCT'S, TRAINING FOR CAPTAINS AND ENGINEERS AND 50 CAL. MACHINE GUNS FOR ARMAMENT. SAID THESE WOULD PROVIDE COASTAL DEFENSE, FORMALLY PROVIDED BY FRENCH NAVY, AND ALSO SERVE FOR COASTAL TRADE.

(C) RADIOS, INCLUDING AN/GRC-9'S, AN/PRC-10'S, SCR SERIES (LESS 300 MODEL), SSB'S (3-300 WATT), PLUS BATTERIES AND SPARES.

(D) FIREARMS, INCLUDING 50 AND 30 CAL. MACHINE GUNS, SUBMACHINE GUNS, AUTOMATIC RIFLES, CARBINES AND REVOLVERS, WITH MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND SPARES.

(E) OTHER EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING PRISMATIC BINOCULARS AND COMPASSES CORRECTABLE FOR MAGNETIC DEVIATIONS.

3. DOD REP (OASD/ISA AFRICA REGION-BADER) EXPLAINED LACK OF POST WAR SURPLUS AVAILABLE WITHIN DOD AND FACT THAT MOST OF EQUIPMENT LISTED OBSOLETE AND THUS NO LONGER IN DOD INVENTORY. SAID THAT MOST OF MATERIEL WAS AVAILABLE IN US FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES AND THAT DOD COULD FURNISH LIST OF REPUTABLE SUPPLIERS EITHER THROUGH EMBASSY TANANARIVE OR TO GOMR EMBASSY WASHINGTON. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, SAID THAT DOD COULD NOT GUARANTEE COMMERCIAL SPARES BUT THAT GOMR WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT BEST DEAL RE BOTH PRICE AND QUALITY BY NEGOTIATING BETWEEN POSSIBLE US SUPPLIERS.

4. ANDRIAMAHAZO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE REALIZED THAT GOMR WAS NOT ON APPROVED LIST OF COUNTRIES TO WHICH USG SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON COMMERCIAL US SOURCES, NOT DOD, SHOULD IT CHOOSE TO PURSUE MATTER HERE. RUSH

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